

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are presently pending in this application. By this amendment claim 17 has been amended and claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner issued a restriction requirement, reciting the following four groups:

Group I claims 1-16
Group II claim 17
Group III claim 18
Group IV claim 19

Applicants hereby elect Group I, readable on claims 1-17, as more fully set forth below. It is applicants' position that claim 17 should be considered as part of Group I for the following reasons:

In view of the amendment made to claim 17, applicants submit that claim 17 should be considered as belonging to Group I. Specifically, applicants have added the structural limitation of an electrical interface device configured to supply electrical current via the first and second terminals (across which the voltage gradient establishing method step is performed).

Applicants have thus added to claim 17, the aspect which the Examiner identified as characterizing inventions belonging to Group I. Thus it is respectfully submitted that claim 17 may now be considered as a member of Group I. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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